

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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R 251531Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8231

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GW, JA

SUBJECT: MTN: SAFEGUARDS AND VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS

1. ACCORDING TO FRG TRADE POLICY OFFICIAL (KUEHN, ECONMIN), EC COMMISSION HAS JUST CIRCULATED ITS DRAFT RESPONSE TO GATT SAFEGUARDS QUESTIONNAIRE. IN LIKELY EVENT THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WILL WANT TO MAKE CHANGES IN DRAFT, KUEHN DOES NOT THINK EC WILL BE READY TO TABLE ITS RESPONSE IN GENEVA UNTIL MID-MARCH.

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2. IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH MATTHEISEN (STR) AND EMBOFF, KUEHN EXPLAINED THAT FRG WAS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF HAS NEVER BEEN A PARTY TO A VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM. OUTSIDE OF TEXTILES FIELD, ONLY RESTRAINTS NOW PLACED ON EXPORTS TO FRG ARE THOSE IMPOSED BY JAPAN. JAPAN PREFERS TAKING ACTION ON HER OWN PART TO LIMIT EXPORTS RATHER THAN SEE PRESSURE BUILD UP IN IMPORTING COUNTRIES TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS. WITH JAPANESE IT IS ALSO A MATTER OF FACE. NEVERTHELESS, FRG HAS BEEN PRESSING JAPAN TO ELIMINATE THESE RESTRAINTS. AT REQUEST OF FRG ECONMIN, JAPANESE PROVIDED A LIST OF ALL VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON EXPORTS TO GERMANY, AND THIS LIST TURNED OUT TO BE FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN FRG HAD ANTICIPATED. ECONMIN HAS REQUESTED GOJ TO TAKE STEPS TO ELIMINATE THESE RESTRAINTS. OTHERWISE THE JAPANESE LIST WILL BE SENT TO THE FEDERAL CARTEL OFFICE FOR ANTI-TRUST PROSECUTION. THE JAPANESE THEN AGREED TO ELIMINATE RESTRAINTS ON A NUMBER OF EXPORTS, BUT HAVE STILL SHOWN STRONG INTEREST IN MAINTAINING CERTAIN RESTRAINTS. ISSUE IS NOT YET RESOLVED, BUT ECONMIN HAS WITHHELD FROM ITS THREAT TO PASS LIST TO CARTEL OFFICE.
HILLENBRAND

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